

Office of Children's Services Out of Home Children

Data extracted Monday March 14, 2016 from Alaska's ORCARPT database.

Reporting period is the most recently completed Twelve Months.

Field definitions and information about the data in this report follow the tables below.

Click to view charts of Out Of Home data based on [months](#) or [years](#).

Count of Children in Out-of-Home Placement during each of the last Twelve Months

Region	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	May 2015	Jun 2015	Jul 2015	Aug 2015	Sep 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2015	Jan 2016	Feb 2016
Anchorage	1,076	1,092	1,119	1,161	1,177	1,187	1,206	1,210	1,218	1,247	1,248	1,255
Northern	451	444	439	451	461	470	488	495	509	488	513	514
Southcentral	623	656	656	673	685	711	714	728	744	751	778	775
Southeast	196	199	204	207	207	204	204	206	210	204	199	199
Western	191	188	193	186	190	191	189	192	182	188	169	186
Alaska, unique count (includes children in Trial Home Visits)	2,537	2,579	2,611	2,678	2,720	2,763	2,801	2,831	2,863	2,878	2,907	2,929

Count in Trial Home Visits during period*	225	225	261	281	290	332	339	374	365	413	405	389
Percent in Trial Home Visits during period*	8.9 %	8.7 %	10.0 %	10.5 %	10.7 %	12.0 %	12.1 %	13.2 %	12.7 %	14.4 %	13.9 %	13.3 %

Removals during the period	139	120	123	164	116	117	120	98	98	101	124	79
Discharges * during the period	78	91	98	75	74	80	70	65	87	94	59	55

* Due to administrative processing, there may be a significant lag for entry of discharge data into ORCA, which may affect reporting accuracy for recent periods. All data will be refreshed in subsequent reports. Future documentation of discharges may increase reporting for Discharges while decreasing reporting for Out-Of-Home and Trial Home Visit.

OCS Out-of-Home Cases during each of the Last Twelve Months

Region	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	May 2015	Jun 2015	Jul 2015	Aug 2015	Sep 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2015	Jan 2016	Feb 2016
Anchorage	641	647	656	674	682	682	691	691	700	708	712	714
Northern	250	244	239	246	248	256	268	270	278	271	277	280
Southcentral	376	397	397	411	419	431	431	443	449	448	447	450
Southeast	129	132	133	132	133	130	133	133	135	130	126	127
Western	93	92	96	92	95	95	93	96	89	91	87	91
Alaska, unique count	1,489	1,512	1,521	1,555	1,577	1,594	1,616	1,633	1,650	1,648	1,649	1,662

OCS Children Out of Home during February 2016

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,855
OOH children last day of the month	2,877
OOH children during month	2,929
OOH cases during month	1,662
Children removed during month	79
Children discharged during month	55

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	15
Child Aged Out	2
Custody Released to Relative	1
Guardianship	2
Reunification	31
Runaway - Custody Released	2
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	2

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,094
Foster Family Relative Home	1,097
Group Home	87
Institution	98
Other	32
Pending Discharge	53
Pre-Adoptive	42
Runaway	16
Supervised Independent Living	1
Trial Home Visit	357

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,466
Female Child	1,411
Child Age 0-2	637
Child Age 3-5	607
Child Age 6-8	528
Child Age 9-11	419
Child Age 12-14	308
Child Age 15+	378
Native Child	1,586
Non-native Child	1,134
Child Race Unknown	157

OCS Children Out of Home during January 2016

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,787
OOH children last day of the month	2,849
OOH children during month	2,907
OOH cases during month	1,649
Children removed during month	124
Children discharged during month	59

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	5
Child Aged Out	2
Guardianship	3
Reunification	47
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	2

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,098
Foster Family Relative Home	1,073
Group Home	84
Institution	95
Other	32
Pending Discharge	49
Pre-Adoptive	43
Runaway	18
Supervised Independent Living	1
Trial Home Visit	356

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,453
Female Child	1,396
Child Age 0-2	635
Child Age 3-5	607
Child Age 6-8	527
Child Age 9-11	392
Child Age 12-14	313
Child Age 15+	375
Native Child	1,561
Non-native Child	1,145
Child Race Unknown	143

OCS Children Out of Home during December 2015

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,789
OOH children last day of the month	2,785
OOH children during month	2,878
OOH cases during month	1,648
Children removed during month	101
Children discharged during month	94

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	32
Child Aged Out	5
Custody Released to Relative	6
Guardianship	4
Reunification	39
Runaway - Custody Released	1
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	7

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,088
Foster Family Relative Home	1,037
Group Home	82
Institution	89
Other	18
Pending Discharge	34
Pre-Adoptive	47
Runaway	15
Supervised Independent Living	1
Trial Home Visit	374

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,412
Female Child	1,373
Child Age 0-2	639
Child Age 3-5	593
Child Age 6-8	502
Child Age 9-11	383
Child Age 12-14	307
Child Age 15+	361
Native Child	1,508
Non-native Child	1,146
Child Race Unknown	131

OCS Children Out of Home during November 2015

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,767
OOH children last day of the month	2,783
OOH children during month	2,863
OOH cases during month	1,650
Children removed during month	98
Children discharged during month	87

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	31
Child Aged Out	4
Custody Released to Relative	2
Guardianship	5
Reunification	39
Transfer To Another Agency	1
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	5

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,117
Foster Family Relative Home	1,028
Group Home	86
Institution	101
Other	7
Pending Discharge	59
Pre-Adoptive	44
Runaway	17
Supervised Independent Living	2
Trial Home Visit	322

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,396
Female Child	1,387
Child Age 0-2	643
Child Age 3-5	592
Child Age 6-8	505
Child Age 9-11	381
Child Age 12-14	307
Child Age 15+	355
Native Child	1,526
Non-native Child	1,136
Child Race Unknown	121

OCS Children Out of Home during October 2015

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,743
OOH children last day of the month	2,766
OOH children during month	2,831
OOH cases during month	1,633
Children removed during month	98
Children discharged during month	65

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	9
Child Aged Out	4
Custody Released to Relative	1
Guardianship	3
Reunification	45
Runaway - Custody Released	1
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	2

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,126
Foster Family Relative Home	1,005
Group Home	80
Institution	90
Other	15
Pending Discharge	64
Pre-Adoptive	40
Runaway	18
Supervised Independent Living	4
Trial Home Visit	324

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,376
Female Child	1,390
Child Age 0-2	636
Child Age 3-5	597
Child Age 6-8	501
Child Age 9-11	376
Child Age 12-14	303
Child Age 15+	353
Native Child	1,519
Non-native Child	1,126
Child Race Unknown	121

OCS Children Out of Home during September 2015

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,690
OOH children last day of the month	2,736
OOH children during month	2,801
OOH cases during month	1,616
Children removed during month	120
Children discharged during month	70

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	26
Child Aged Out	3
Custody Released to Relative	1
Reunification	32
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	8

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,121
Foster Family Relative Home	1,026
Group Home	82
Institution	84
Other	17
Pending Discharge	37
Pre-Adoptive	41
Runaway	12
Supervised Independent Living	4
Trial Home Visit	312

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,367
Female Child	1,369
Child Age 0-2	634
Child Age 3-5	595
Child Age 6-8	496
Child Age 9-11	373
Child Age 12-14	294
Child Age 15+	344
Native Child	1,522
Non-native Child	1,100
Child Race Unknown	114

OCS Children Out of Home during August 2015

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,646
OOH children last day of the month	2,684
OOH children during month	2,763
OOH cases during month	1,594
Children removed during month	117
Children discharged during month	80

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	31
Child Aged Out	6
Guardianship	2
Reunification	35
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	6

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,111
Foster Family Relative Home	1,013
Group Home	75
Institution	78
Other	5
Pending Discharge	44
Pre-Adoptive	45
Runaway	10
Supervised Independent Living	4
Trial Home Visit	299

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,334
Female Child	1,350
Child Age 0-2	640
Child Age 3-5	585
Child Age 6-8	471
Child Age 9-11	364
Child Age 12-14	290
Child Age 15+	334
Native Child	1,502
Non-native Child	1,074
Child Race Unknown	108

OCS Children Out of Home during July 2015

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,618
OOH children last day of the month	2,650
OOH children during month	2,720
OOH cases during month	1,577
Children removed during month	116
Children discharged during month	74

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	23
Child Aged Out	6
Death Of Child	1
Reunification	41
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	3

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,099
Foster Family Relative Home	995
Group Home	88
Institution	80
Other	12
Pending Discharge	54
Pre-Adoptive	48
Runaway	6
Supervised Independent Living	1
Trial Home Visit	267

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,317
Female Child	1,333
Child Age 0-2	640
Child Age 3-5	572
Child Age 6-8	466
Child Age 9-11	358
Child Age 12-14	284
Child Age 15+	330
Native Child	1,492
Non-native Child	1,059
Child Race Unknown	99

OCS Children Out of Home during June 2015

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,524
OOH children last day of the month	2,612
OOH children during month	2,678
OOH cases during month	1,555
Children removed during month	164
Children discharged during month	75

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	14
Child Aged Out	6
Custody Released to Relative	2
Death Of Child	1
Reunification	48
Transfer to DJJ	1
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	3

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,073
Foster Family Relative Home	976
Group Home	85
Institution	90
Other	26
Pending Discharge	50
Pre-Adoptive	51
Runaway	9
Supervised Independent Living	2
Trial Home Visit	250

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,298
Female Child	1,314
Child Age 0-2	641
Child Age 3-5	540
Child Age 6-8	470
Child Age 9-11	349
Child Age 12-14	283
Child Age 15+	329
Native Child	1,486
Non-native Child	1,036
Child Race Unknown	90

OCS Children Out of Home during May 2015

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,504
OOH children last day of the month	2,513
OOH children during month	2,611
OOH cases during month	1,521
Children removed during month	123
Children discharged during month	98

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	29
Child Aged Out	5
Custody Released to Relative	2
Guardianship	7
Reunification	46
Runaway - Custody Released	1
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	8

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,054
Foster Family Relative Home	938
Group Home	75
Institution	93
Other	27
Pending Discharge	42
Pre-Adoptive	45
Runaway	10
Supervised Independent Living	1
Trial Home Visit	228

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,256
Female Child	1,257
Child Age 0-2	616
Child Age 3-5	508
Child Age 6-8	469
Child Age 9-11	325
Child Age 12-14	280
Child Age 15+	315
Native Child	1,417
Non-native Child	1,011
Child Race Unknown	85

OCS Children Out of Home during April 2015

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,463
OOH children last day of the month	2,493
OOH children during month	2,579
OOH cases during month	1,512
Children removed during month	120
Children discharged during month	91

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	31
Child Aged Out	3
Custody Released to Relative	2
Guardianship	3
Reunification	48
Runaway - Custody Released	1
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	3

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,051
Foster Family Relative Home	942
Group Home	83
Institution	91
Other	25
Pending Discharge	48
Pre-Adoptive	43
Runaway	10
Supervised Independent Living	2
Trial Home Visit	198

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,245
Female Child	1,248
Child Age 0-2	607
Child Age 3-5	513
Child Age 6-8	454
Child Age 9-11	327
Child Age 12-14	283
Child Age 15+	309
Native Child	1,429
Non-native Child	979
Child Race Unknown	85

OCS Children Out of Home during March 2015

Unique OOH Counts for the Month

OOH children first day of the month	2,398
OOH children last day of the month	2,466
OOH children during month	2,537
OOH cases during month	1,489
Children removed during month	139
Children discharged during month	78

Reason for Discharges during the Month

Adoption	28
Child Aged Out	2
Custody Released to Relative	1
Guardianship	2
Reunification	42
Runaway - Custody Released	1
Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction	2

OOH Placement Setting on Last Day of the Month

Foster Family Non-Relative Home	1,051
Foster Family Relative Home	914
Group Home	83
Institution	98
Other	12
Pending Discharge	59
Pre-Adoptive	44
Runaway	8
Supervised Independent Living	4
Trial Home Visit	193

OOH Demographics for Last Day of the Month

Male Child	1,225
Female Child	1,241
Child Age 0-2	605
Child Age 3-5	522
Child Age 6-8	447
Child Age 9-11	314
Child Age 12-14	274
Child Age 15+	304
Native Child	1,434
Non-native Child	946
Child Race Unknown	86

About the data in this report

This report summarizes statistics for children who were in Alaska's Office of Children's Services (OCS) Out of Home (OOH) removals during all or part of each period being reported.

Removal for OOH placement is the last option considered when reasonable efforts to protect a child in his or her own home have been exhausted by OCS. The first preference considered in all out-of-home placements for a child or youth is a relative's home. When it is not possible to place a child with a relative it is necessary to place the child in a licensed foster home. Residential care facilities may offer short-term emergency shelter as well as more long-term residential treatment.

"Unique count" indicates that each child (or case, for case counts) is counted only once per reported category. However, some out of home individuals may have moved between regions during the reporting period. Therefore, regional demographic counts may not add to statewide Alaska totals.

Children removed on the first day of reporting period are included in counts for OOH on the first day of the period. Children discharged on the last day of reporting period are included in counts and demographics for OOH on the last day of the period. Therefore, last day counts will not equal the sum of first day counts plus removals and minus discharges during the period.

Child age is calculated based on discharge date if the child was discharged during the reporting period, otherwise child age calculation is based on the end of the reporting period.

Native Status is determined by reported race of either Alaskan Native or Native American.

To protect the privacy of individuals in low-count groups, regional breakouts are not included for monthly reports and for some yearly summary tables.

Subsequent reports covering the same reporting periods will contain updated statistics.

OCS Out of Home Web Report Field Definitions

Adoption – Transfer of the legal relation of parent to a person not related to the child by birth, with the same mutual rights and obligations that existed between the child and his or her birth parents.

Case - A household unit included in one or more Initial Assessment.

Day - For purposes of Foster Care a day is midnight to midnight. This report counts a child as Out of Home on the day of Removal but not on the day of Discharge. Therefore, children discharged on the first day of the reporting period will not be included in counts for the start of that reporting period.

Discharge - The point in time when a child is no longer in Out of Home Care.

Guardianship - A person outside of the child's household fulfills some of the responsibilities of a legal parent while the courts or birthparents may continue to hold other legal responsibilities for the child. Guardianship is subject to ongoing supervision by the court and ends by court order or when the child reaches the age of majority. Guardianship may be used as an alternative to Adoption in some kinship care situations in which a child's relative is assuming a parental role but prefers not to adopt. Guardians may be entitled to the same benefits as Foster or Adoptive parents.

Native Child - Any mention of Alaska Native or American Indian race.

Office of Children's Services (OCS) - A division of Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services.

ORCA - Online Resources for the Children of Alaska, OCS's main database.

Out-of-Home Placement (OOH or OOHP) / Removal: Placing the child in the physical care of someone other than the child's Caregiver. Removal may include situations in which the child is living in the same residence as the Caregiver, but the Caregiver's ability to exercise physical care and control of the child

Placement - The physical setting in which a child resides after Removal; that is, the resultant Foster Care setting. A new Placement setting results when the Foster Care setting changes, for example, when a child moves from one Foster family home to another or to a Group Home or Institution.

Region, as used in this Out of Home report - One of areas of five Alaska, based on the office of the primary OCS worker responsible for the Case at Discharge or, if not Discharged during the period, at the end of the reporting period.

Removal - The physical act of a child being taken from his or her normal place of residence, by court order or a voluntary placement agreement, and placed in a substitute care setting, or the removal of Custody from the parent or relative Guardian pursuant to a court order or voluntary placement agreement which permits the child to remain in a substitute care setting.

Reporting Period – Complete month or calendar year, as specified in the report. Owing to Unique Counts, data reported on a monthly basis will not necessarily sum to annual figures.

Unique Count – An unduplicated count within the Reporting Period; that is, each person, ID, or combination of person or ID with other factors is counted only once regardless of the number of times represented within the reported group during the reporting period. For example, a child out of home in two regions during a reporting period will be counted once for each region where region is being reported, but only once where count for all of Alaska is being reported. Therefore total of all regions may not equal statewide count.

Discharge Reasons:

- **Adoption** - Termination of all legal relationships between the adopted person and the natural parents and other relatives of the adopted person, so that the adopted person thereafter is a stranger to the former relatives for all purposes; to create the relationship of parent and child between petitioner and the adopted person, as if the adopted person were a legitimate blood descendant of the petitioner, for all purposes.
- **Child Aged Out** – Child between 18-21 exited OCS custody based on their age. Child may enter an independent living arrangement. .
- **Custody Released to Relative** - Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child has been transferred to a relative of the child.
- **Death of Child** – The child has died, not necessarily as a result of maltreatment.
- **Guardianship** - A legal arrangement where a person or institution is appointed as a guardian to make decisions for an incapacitated person - decisions about housing, medical care, legal issues, and services.
- **Reunification** - Discharge from Out of Home Placement to reunite child and family.
- **THV Expired - Custody Retained** – A trial home visit exceeded six months or a time period ordered by a court. If a trial home visit exceeds this time limit, or if a child is placed at home and custody lapses and the child is placed in out-of-home care again, it is considered a second removal from home,
- **Transfer to another Agency** – Transfer of child Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child to a tribe or other non-OCS entity.
- **Transfer to DJJ** – Transfer of Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child to Alaska's Department of Juvenile Justice, an agency is in the same Department as OCS. DJJ has a different database of record, but OCS is responsible for paying Foster Care for these children.
- **Tribe Assumed Jurisdiction** - Legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child was transferred to a Native tribe.

Placement Settings:

- **Foster Home** - An OCS approved home in which an adult head of the household provides 24-hour care on a continuing basis to one or more children who are apart from their principal Caregiver. The adult may be a Relative or Non-Relative. Non-relative Foster Homes must be licensed by OCS.
- **Group Home** - A home that cares for more than three, but no more than eight, children unrelated to the Foster parent.
- **Institution** - A child care facility operated by a public or private agency and providing 24-hour care and/or treatment for children who require separation from their own homes and group living experience. These facilities may include: child care institutions, residential treatment facilities, maternity homes, nursing homes, hospitals, etc.
- **Missing Documentation** – A placement was ended but insufficient information was entered into ORCA to determine subsequent placement setting.
- **Pending Discharge** - Foster Care placement has ended for reasons such as Adoption, Guardianship, Aging-Out, Emancipation, Death of Child, or other reason to release State legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child, but Discharge paperwork had not been completed at the end of the Reporting Period.
- **Pre-Adoptive** - A home in which a child is placed with a family with the understanding that the family plans to adopt the child.
- **Runaway** – A child who left the Provider he/she was placed with, whose whereabouts are either currently unknown or who is staying in an unapproved setting, and for whom the State retains legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child.
- **Supervised Independent Living** – A type of voluntary extended Foster Care placement where young adults can live on their own, while still getting casework and support services to help them become independent and self-sufficient.
- **Trial Home Visit (THV)** – The child has been in a Foster Care placement, but, under continuing OCS supervision, is returned to the child's principal Caregiver for a limited period of time. If the THV is successful legal responsibility for care and maintenance of a child may be returned to the principal Caregiver.